

THE GENUS *CALLICTITA* (LEPIDOPTERA,  
LYCÆNIDÆ)<sup>1</sup>

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In 1908 Bethune-Baker erected the genus *Callictita* for a single and very distinct new species, *cyara*, from the Angabunga River, British New Guinea. Eight years later Joicey and Talbot extended the range of this species by adding a new subspecies, *albiplaga*, from the Wandammen Mts. of Dutch New Guinea. Peculiarly, in Seitz' addenda to Volume 9 of the Macrolepidoptera of the World (1927) appears this same name *albiplaga*, but credited to Fruhstorfer, *i.l.*, with no mention of Joicey and Talbot whatsoever. Seitz figured the form, but gave no locality. His illustration looks suspiciously similar to that of Joicey and Talbot.

Fruhstorfer in Seitz (*loc. cit. infr.*) gives the following diagnosis of the genus: "Structure of the fore wings different from *Castalius* by the first subcostal immediately disappearing in the costal and crossing it. The subcostal fork is shorter, its branches more closely together than in *Castalius* or *Taraka*. Fore wing exhibits a roundish, large, discal black androconial area. Clasping organs highly specialized, œdeagus canaliculate as in *Upolampes*. Uncus remarkably feeble, short, narrow, but with very long apophysis. Valve trumpet-like, distally wide open, with a sharp dorsal tooth, everywhere extremely long-haired."

*CALLICTITA* Bethune-Baker

Bethune-Baker, 1908, P.Z.S., 1908: 118. Genotype (by monotypy), *Callictita cyara* B.-B.

Fruhstorfer, 1923, [in] Seitz, Macrolep. World, 9: 891.

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Apparently this genus is distributed from one end of New Guinea to the other, but only in the mountains.

*Callictita cyara cyara* Bethune-Baker

*Callictita cyara* Bethune-Baker, 1908, P.Z.S., 1908: 119, pl. 8, fig. 1; Fruhstorfer, 1923, [in] Seitz, Macrolep. World, 9: 891, pl. 145k.

*Callictita albiplaga* (*nec albiplaga* Joicey and Talbot): Jordan, 1930, Proc. Ent. Soc. London, 5: 60.

The species was described originally from the Angabunga River and Ougarra, in eastern New Guinea. Fruhstorfer (*loc. cit.*) records it as well from Mt. Gelu (1100 meters) in eastern New Guinea, and Jordan (*loc. cit.*) gives the Edie River, west side of the Herzog Mts., eastern New Guinea, April (?). In the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy is a series of 18 specimens from Mt. Misim (6000 feet), Morobe District, eastern New Guinea, taken Jan.-March, 1933, by Herbert Stevens.

Males above with the fore wing bright iridescent violet, with a central patch of jet black scales, and a narrow black outer marginal border. Hind wing is black-brown entirely, save for a central white patch, about the same size as the discal black patch of the fore wing.

Females above similar, save for: the slightly larger, somewhat less intense black discal patch of the fore wing above; the much broader outer marginal border, and the extension of this border in on the inner margin to the base, where it thickens up to the lower Dc. The hind wing is largely white, with a border of black-brown completely surrounding the wing, on costa, outer margin and inner margin, including the base. On the outer margin, near the anal angle, just outward of this band is a row of two or three white internervural dashes. A tail at Cu2.

Underside of male is white on both wings. The fore wing is crossed by four bands of black-brown, one on the margin, to 2A, one post-discal to Cu2, one discal to inner margin, and a basal one, covering the whole base, save for a costal dash of white. Hind wing has an irregular heavy dark band running from costa near base, across base, and along inner margin, frequently showing white within it

(evidently remnants of white centering of spots). On the costa is a small triangular dark spot, reaching Rs, and rarely M1. Outer margin brown, with occasional marginal white spots, particularly in M3-Cu1. In Cu1-Cu2 is a jet-black marginal spot, ringed with metallic green, strongest basally, and rather weak outwardly, and in Cu2-2A is a jet-black dash, basally lined with a metallic green bar.

Females similar, but with the bar on the inner margin lacking the white, or almost lacking it. The costal triangular spot constantly reaches M1 instead of Rs.

*Remarks.* The male of the typical subspecies is apparently described here for the first time. Bethune-Baker erroneously sexed his specimens as males. Jordan (*loc. cit.*) evidently based his Edie River record of "*albiplaga* Fruhst." on males of this subspecies, though he failed to describe them.

Males of the three subspecies (*cyara*, *albiplaga*, and *arfakiana*) do not seem to differ on the upper surfaces, and only more material will tell whether the same is true of the females.

The real difference between the subspecies lies on the under surface. The pattern here varies consistently. From *albiplaga* the typical subspecies may be told by the more scalloped outer marginal border of the former, and the consequent increase in white outward of it. The band on the inner margin is in *albiplaga* more broken up into spots. In general, there appears to be a decrease in the amount of black in *albiplaga* in the hind wing below, but on the fore wing there is, if anything, an increase.

Typical *cyara* may be separated from *arfakiana* by the latter's smaller size, and the presence of two well-defined costal spots on the hind wing below, instead of one as in *cyara*. There is on this surface more metallic scaling in *arfakiana*, near the anal angle.

*Callictita cyara albiplaga* Joicey and Talbot

*Callictita cyara albiplaga* Joicey and Talbot, 1916, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., (8)17: 80, pl. 7, fig. 5.

*Callictita cyara albiplaga* Seitz, 1927, Macrolep. World, 9: 1114, pl. 147b.

Described from the Wandammen Mts. in Dutch New Guinea at an elevation of 3-4000 feet.

Differs from *cyara* in characters mentioned under that subspecies. From *arfakiana* it may be told by the more scalloped outer marginal border on the hind wing below, the defined spots on the inner margin and the single isolated spot on the costa (rather than two, as in *arfakiana*).

No specimens of this subspecies have been seen, but it is well described and illustrated, in color, by Joicey and Talbot.

#### *Callictita cyara arfakiana*, new subspecies

##### UPPERSIDE :

*Male.* *Fore wing* brilliant iridescent purple. Outer margin narrowly black-brown. A large central patch of jet-black raised scales. *Hind wing* black-brown with a central white patch. At Cu1-Cu2 in one specimen is a suggestion of a pale spot. A tail at Cu2.

##### UNDERSIDE :

*Male.* *Fore wing* white, crossed by four brown bands, one on the outer margin (with a faint streak of white outward of it), one post-discal (fusing with the first at Cu2), one discal (swelling at the inner margin and fusing with the basal), and a basal (which includes the whole base save for a small costal creamy bar). *Hind wing* white, with a long bar of black-brown running from costa at base to just basad of the anal angle, spotted infrequently with white. On the costa are two triangular spots, the inner reaching the center of the cell, the outer reaching M1 near the cell-end. On the outer margin is a band of brown from outer angle to M3, from M3 to anal angle becoming differentiated into three black spots ringed with metallic blue-green. Marginal to the whole band is a narrow line of white, thicker in M3-Cu1 and Cu2-2A.

*Length of fore wing:* Male, 11-11.5 mm.

*Holotype*, male, Mt. Siwi, Arfak, Dutch New Guinea, 800 meters, May 4, 1928 (Dr. E. Mayr).

*Paratype*, one male, same locality and collector, April-June, 1928.

Holotype and paratype in the American Museum of Natural History.

*Remarks.* Differs from both other subspecies in its smaller size, the presence of two, instead of one, costal spots on the hind wing below, and the large amount of metallic scaling near the anal angle of this wing below. Differences between *arfakiana* and each of the other two are discussed more fully above.